

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) A method for maintaining state between a client and a server without the server transmitting to or storing on the client any state-related information, said server being in communication with a database, comprising:

generating a unique state identifier that contains information based on a location value of the client;

transmitting said state identifier from the client to said server in an initial communication with said server;

storing said state identifier in said database in association with a record of a first user session with the client;

transmitting said state identifier to said server in a subsequent communication with said server; and

determining whether the subsequent communication is part of the first user session by comparing the subsequently transmitted state identifier with the initially transmitted state identifier stored in the database, and if there is a match, then associating said second communication with said record of the first user session.

50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said state identifier based on a location value that corresponds to the location of the client.

51. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said state identifier based on a location value that includes a latitude and longitude dimension.

52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said state identifier based on a location value that further includes an altitude dimension.

53. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said state identifier based on a temporal value.

54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said state identifier based on a temporal value that corresponds to the creation of said state identifier.

55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 53, wherein said generating step further comprises generating said state identifier based on a temporal value that corresponds to the invocation of an Internet browser session.

56. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, further comprising the step of deriving an anonymous state identifier from said state identifier.

57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56, wherein said deriving step further comprises mathematically encoding said state identifier into said anonymous state identifier.

58. (Currently amended) An apparatus for maintaining state between a client and a server without the server transmitting to or storing on the client any state-related information, comprising:

- a database for storing records of user sessions; and

- a server in communication with said database and adapted to:

- receive an initial communication from said client that includes a unique state identifier, said state identifier being derived from location data corresponding to said client;

- store said state identifier in said database as a state variable associated with a user session with the client;

- receive a subsequent communication from said client that includes a state identifier; and

- access the database to determine whether said subsequent communication is associated with said initial user session by comparing the subsequently received state identifier with the initially stored state identifier.

59. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 58, wherein the state identifier is derived from location data that corresponds to the location of the client.

60. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 59, wherein said state identifier is derived from location data that includes a latitude and longitude dimension.

61. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 59, wherein said state identifier is derived from location data that includes a latitude, longitude and altitude dimension.

62. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein said state identifier is further derived from temporal data.

63. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein said state identifier is further derived from temporal data that corresponds to the creation of said state identifier.

64. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein said state identifier is further derived from temporal data that corresponds to the invocation of an Internet browser session.

65. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein said state identifier is mathematically encoded prior to said state identifier being included in said initial communication sent to said server.

66. (Currently amended) An apparatus for facilitating interaction between a user and a web application operating on a remote server without the server transmitting to or storing on the apparatus any state-related information, comprising:

- a GPS receiver adapted to generate location data corresponding to said user's geographic location;

- a memory; and

- a processor electrically connected to said memory and said GPS receiver, and adapted to:

- generate a state identifier from said location data in association with a first user session between said user and said web application;

- transmit the state identifier to the server during the first user session;

- store said state identifier in said memory;

- transmit a request to said server and include said state identifier in said request if said request is part of said first user session; and

- alternatively, generate a new state identifier and include said new state identifier in said request if said request is part of a new user session.

67. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 66, further comprising a web-browser application, wherein said processor is further adapted to delete said state identifier from said memory when said web-browser application is closed.

68. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 66, wherein said processor is further adapted to store said new state identifier in said memory if said request is part of a new user session.

69. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 68, wherein said processor is further adapted to replace said state identifier in said memory with said new state identifier if said request is part of a new user session.

70. (Currently amended) A method for communicating between a client and a server without the server transmitting to or storing on the client any state-related information, comprising:

- generating a state identifier based on at least location data that corresponds to a location of said client;

- incorporating said state identifier into a communication;

- sending said communication to said server;

- comparing said state identifier to information stored in a database, said database being in communication with and accessible by said server;

- identifying said communication as part of a previous session if there is coincidence between said state identifier and information stored in said database; and

- identifying said communication as part of a new session if there is no coincidence between said state identifier and information stored in said database.

71. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein said step of generating a state identifier further comprises generating said state identifier from location data that includes a latitude and longitude dimension.

72. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 71, wherein said step of generating a state identifier further comprises generating said state identifier from location data that further includes an altitude dimension.

73. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein said step of generating a state identifier further comprises generating said state identifier from temporal data.

74. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein said step of generating a state identifier further comprises generating said state identifier from temporal data that corresponds to a time the state identifier was generated.

75. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein said step of generating a state identifier further comprises generating said state identifier from temporal data that corresponds to a time said previous session was initiated.

76. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein said step of generating a state identifier further comprises generating said state identifier from location data acquired from a GPS receiver.

77. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, further comprising deleting said state identifier upon completion of said previous session.

78. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, further comprising maintaining at least a portion of said state identifier upon completion of said previous session.

79. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein said step of incorporating said state identifier into a communication further comprising incorporating said state identifier into a cookie file and incorporating said cookie file into said communication.

80. (Currently amended) A method for communicating between a client and a server without the server transmitting to or storing on the client any state-related information, said server being in communication with a database, comprising:

initiating a user session with the server by communicating from the client to the server an initial request message over a stateless network protocol, the initial request message further including a unique, client-generated state identifier, the server creating a record in the database associated with the user session with the state identifier contained therein;

conducting the user session in which the server provides at least one response to the initial request message, and in which any subsequent request messages communicated from the client to the server include the same state identifier, the server associating the initial request message and the subsequent request messages together as part of the user session by verifying correspondence with the state identifier contained in the database record; and

ending the user session by discontinuing communication of further request messages from the client to the server and deleting the state identifier from the client.

81. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 80, wherein said state identifier includes a location value that corresponds to a location of the client.

82. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 81, wherein said location value includes a latitude and longitude dimension.

83. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 81, wherein said location value includes an altitude dimension.

84. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 80, wherein said state identifier includes a temporal value.

85. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 84, wherein said temporal value corresponds to a time of generation of said state identifier.

86. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 84, wherein said temporal value corresponds to a time of invocation of an Internet browser session.

87. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 80, further comprising mathematically encoding said state identifier prior to communicating to said server.